



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
**Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center**  
**2570 Dole St. § Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396**

## **KOHALA-KONA / WEST COAST OF THE ISLAND OF HAWAII**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING STRANDED SEA TURTLES AND THE VIOLATION OF LAWS PROTECTING HAWAIIAN SEA TURTLES**

A stranded sea turtle is defined as any ocean turtle found dead, injured, sick, tumored, or otherwise abnormal and sometimes even normal in appearance and out of the water, usually along the shoreline. The turtle may also be in very shallow water close to shore. DOCARE is a point of contact to facilitate a response. DOCARE Officers do not normally pick up stranded turtles, unless there is a law enforcement violation.

The correct phone numbers to report a stranded sea turtle to facilitate a response along the Kohala-Kona coast are:

**881-4200** (Honokohau to Hawi)  
Hawaii Preparatory Academy

**887-6196**  
Waimea DOCARE, State of Hawaii

**327-4961** Kona DOCARE, State of Hawaii

OR Dial ``0" for the operator and ask for ``**Enterprise 5469**"  
DOCARE State of Hawaii for after hours, weekends, and holidays.

For suspected law enforcement violations, such as killing, harming, or harassing a turtle please call the DOCARE numbers above or:

**800-853-1964**  
Honolulu: 808-541-2727  
Law Enforcement Branch  
National Marine Fisheries Service

For other Hawaiian Islands, please call the State of Hawaii DOCARE offices to facilitate a response:

**BIG ISLAND: 974-6208 (Hilo/East Coast); 887-6196 (Kamuela); MAUI: 984-8110**  
**MOLOKAI: 553-5190; LANAI: 565-7916; KAUAI: 274-3521; and for OAHU: 983-5730 NMFS**  
**Marine Turtle Research Program (after hours, call DOCARE: 587-0077).**

#### **Important points to keep in mind:**

- S Sea turtles are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. All sea turtles, both dead and alive, are legally protected.
- S These instructions apply exclusively to sea turtles. Please do not call 911 or any other private or government organizations.
- S Due to the considerable travel distances that may be involved, and the possibility of other turtle strandings occurring at the same time, a delay in response of three hours or more may occur. Please be patient. There is no harm whatsoever for a sea turtle to be out of the water for many hours, provided it stays cool and is not in direct hot sunlight. In fact, sea turtles strand because they want to and need to be out of the ocean.
- S Callers should be prepared to tell exactly where the turtle is located, whether it appears to be dead or alive, and the size of the animal (estimated weight or length of shell - can one person lift it, or will two or more persons be needed?). Due to safety considerations, personnel may not travel at night to isolated unfamiliar areas.
- S If the turtle returns to the water before someone arrives, this is not necessarily bad. Some turtles want to rest ashore for extended periods of time (called basking) and they may do this regularly especially along the Kohala-Kona Coast.